EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

FEDERAL COMMONIETHER CORNELINA

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

4 MAR 1993

Scalary 222 IN REPLY REFER TO:

nmD 92-264

RECEIVED 8310-MEA CN9300411

MAR 1 1 1993

Mr. Julio Solano 16511 Silverhill Drive Tampa, FL 33624

FEDERAL CUMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Solano:

Congressman Michael Bilirakis has asked me to respond to your letter in which you complain about rate increases by your local cable television operator.

The Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates. The Commission is in the process of formulating rules implementing the rate provisions of the law and is seeking public comment on those provisions that address rate rollbacks, refunds, and evasions of statutory requirements. The Commission will attempt to implement these provisions faithfully, and will consider the conduct of the cable industry during the interim period in deciding what kind of regulation is needed.

Your letter will be placed in the record of this proceeding so that the Commission can be mindful of your concerns during its deliberations. I trust that the foregoing and the enclosures are informative.

Sincerely,

Roy J. Stewart

Chief, Mass Media Bureau

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd_

88888



MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

9TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND COMPETITIVENESS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
RANKING MEMBER, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

CHAIRMAN, TASK FORCE ON THE ELDERLY
CO-CHAIRMAN, TASK FORCE ON
INFANT MORTALITY
CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-0909

3

October 17, 1992

WASHINGTON OFFICE 2432 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0909 (202) 225-5755 DISTRICT OFFICES П 1100 CLEVELAND STREET, SUITE 1600 CLEARWATER, FL 34615 (813) 441-3721 2739 U.S. HWY. 19, SUITE 110 HOLIDAY, FL 34691 (813) 847-1022 408 WEST RENFRO STREET SUITE 107F PLANT CITY, FL 33566

(813) 752-9280

JAN 08 1993

Mr. Julio Solano 16511 Silverhill Drive Tampa, Florida 33624

Dear Mr. Dolano:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your objections to S. 12 and efforts to "re-regulate" cable television service.

I am fundamentally opposed to any congressional action to increase cable rates. As most consumers know, cable rates have increased markedly in the last few years. While there are many reasons for this increase, including the addition of new channels and programming, certainly Congress should not do anything to exacerbate the situation or further drive up rates.

After much study and reflection, however, I did not believe that the final bill recently approved by Congress over the objections of the President would result in higher rates. Instead, I believed it was necessary to end certain abuses within the cable industry.

My opinion was based on several elements. First, the legislation does not raise any cable rate or fee but actually regulates the price of basic tier service. The Federal Communications Commission will now determine "reasonable rates." Second, the bill contains concrete benefits for consumers. Service standards will be imposed on cable operators to ensure that they are responsive to their customers. While many cable operators provide excellent service, there have been instances of "renegades" who have resisted basic standards.

Finally, I do believe that much "misinformation" was generated during the cable debate. The final bill does not require cable operators to pay anyone for the use of their signal -- the bill merely gives the option to broadcasters to withhold their signal from the present 'compulsory' license and possibly negotiate for compensation. There is no provision which dictates anyone paying anything to anybody.

Still, I was distressed by the magnitude of the regulation contained in the bill. I believe that some provisions may prove onerous and could inhibit investment and development in the cable television

on balance, however, I was called upon to balance the of my constituents and the complaints that I have received ich communities as Dunedin and Oldsmar regarding cable vision service. While I would have preferred a less oppressive in the end I believe I voted with my constituents and with the consumers nationwide.

please be assured, however, that I carefully considered your comments and the many others that I received from individuals and families who were opposed to the bill. You can be certain that I do not take such input lightly. In fact, I rely heavily on the views I receive from my constituents in shaping my service as your representative. You can be certain that I will exercise careful oversight over the new law to see that it performs as intended.

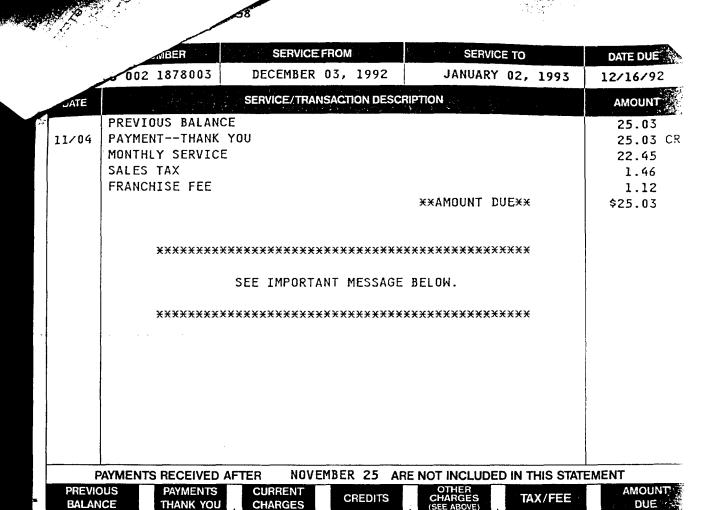
Again, thank you for expressing your views.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Bilirakis

Member of Congress

MB:rjm





0.00

AN AMOUNT FOLLOWED BY A (CR) IS A CREDIT OR A CREDIT BALANCE

THE FINAL IMPACT ON PRICES FROM RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION WILL NOT BE CLEAR FOR AWHILE. WE WILL BE MAKING CHANGES, BEGINNING IN JANUARY, WE BELIEVE REFLECT CONGRESS' INTENTIONS. OUR MONTHLY CHARGES WILL INCREASE BY 5%. THIS INCREASE REFLECTS THE EVER-INCREASING COST OF DOING BUSINESS AND WILL ALLOW US TO CONTINUE PROVIDING YOU WITH HIGH QUALITY SERVICE.

0.00

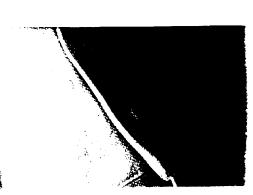
Julo A. Solano 16511 Silverhill Dr. Tampa, FL 33624

25.03

25.03

こって

22.45



\$25.03